



MINISTÉRIO DA AGRICULTURA
E DESENVOLVIMENTO RURAL

Mozambique's Food Systems Transformation Pathway

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1. Introduction

For Mozambique, food systems are and have always been an important pillar for economic development, given its key role as a livelihood and subsistence mean for the majority (about 80%) of the population. Over the last three decades the agrarian sector contributed in average to around one-quarter of GDP. Most of that contribution derives from the agriculture family sector. Nevertheless, and in a broader context, agriculture remains predominantly subsistence-oriented and with low improved inputs usage, which results in lower production and productivity and, hence, food and nutrition insecurity.

There are several challenges, either of technical, economic, environmental and political nature, that contribute to the overall underperformance of the agriculture sector in the country. Amongst them are the frequent occurrence of extreme climate events, low income, poor management of postharvest (slaughter or catch) products and adoption of quality norms and standards, inefficient transportation systems for trade and exports control amongst others. All these contribute to Mozambique's high dependence for food imports and high incidences of poverty and food and nutrition insecurity. Taking all these challenges into account, it becomes crucial the transformation of the food systems in Mozambique aiming at turning them into more resilient to the dynamics from the global markets and shocks of diverse nature, contributing to improve the odds of the country to comply with the Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) targets, as well as to comply with national vision for sustainable integration of food systems towards zero hunger.

2. Required Actions and Measures

Under an integrated and inclusive process with key stakeholders, local and international partners, Mozambique defined its pathway with a goal to achieve the SDG targets, taking into account three pillars namely: (i) Sustainable food and nutrition security (ii) Food systems' value chains; and, (iii) Conflicts, Resilience and Climate Changes. For each of the pillars different but interrelated actions are identified as relevant and priority for national food systems' transformation.

2.1. Pillar I: Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security

- Enhanced empowerment of rural communities aiming at a paradigm change, from an external assistance and support reliance to a more autonomous approach for adaptation to shocks that impact on families' food and nutrition security;
- Provision of productive, food, nutritional, health and sanitation's social assistance, mainly to the most vulnerable groups and people in needy situations;
- Demand generation for nutritive food and promotion of educational programs and food and nutritional support;
- Promotion of alternative and integrated production systems for enhanced nutritional diversity for families and sub-products utilization.

2.2. Pillar II: Food Systems' Value Chains

- Enhanced access to more productive production means, including adequate financing to agriculture, livestock and fishery sectors;
- Technical assistance and inclusion of disadvantaged groups (women, youth and individuals with disabilities) in food systems' value chains;
- Expansion of and improvements in public infrastructures for agricultural trade support management;
- Enhanced market linkages, through improvements and expansion of access roads, increased efficiency in agricultural commodities pricing, establishment and expansion of processing units, integrated planning for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as well as trainings for SMEs in business technical and managerial aspects;
- Research promotion, focusing on marketing aspects and on improvements to the overall business environment in the agrarian sector;
- Enhanced intra and inter institutional coordination for a multisector and integrated planning, that is crucial for a systemized implementation of integrated action relevant to food systems, which also result in synergic gains and improved efficiency in resources' allocation.

2.3. Pillar III: Conflicts; Resilience and Climate Changes

- Information and communication technologies promotion, which are adaptive to the local reality, as a mechanism for early warnings to climate adverse and extreme shocks, as well as other predictable shocks occurrence;
- Enhanced surveillance for the implementation of environmental legislation, conduct codes and good practices, including for biodiversity conservation;
- Promotion of non-timber economic activities (e.g., apiculture) based on an integrated value chain approach that promotes environmental conservation;
- Disincentives for wood fuels' usage;
- Implementation of productive ordainment plans with the aim to promote increased efficiency and productivity across diverse production sectors;
- Implementation of territorial and local adaptation plans as tools for an adequate planning of land usage, and hence reducing the side-effects from irrational usage and overexploitation of natural resources.

3. Inclusion and Multisectorial approach

An effective and sustainable transformation of the food systems in Mozambique is perceived to be an integrated process, linking different actors and partners, domestic and international, and driven by certain and fundamental principles such as the principle of inclusion, ensuring that each and every action and measure is non-discriminatory, i.e., ensuring equal rights to all Mozambicans, regardless of the gender, age, race, religion or any other attribute. Different roles are expected from the different actors:

- **Government:** as a Sovereign entity, the Government has a crucial role both in terms of leadership for resources mobilization and availability and of definition and implementation of favorable policies, programmes and actions required for a sustainable and integrated transformation of the domestic food systems;
- **Private sector:** the private sector is a crucial element for the sustainability of food systems given its expected active role in operationalizing the different activities linked to food systems, starting from primary production to food distribution and sale;
- **Communities and Civil Society:** the purpose of food systems is to ensure the wellbeing of communities and civil society, therefore, these actors' key roles are linked to monitoring, evaluation and feedback provision about food systems' compliance with its role;

- **Academia:** the sustainability of food systems is also reliant on the participation of academia, of which it is expected its involvement through capacity building and trainings of human resources in line with the demand for technical and managerial expertise to operationalize the different tasks linked to food systems, as well as through applied research aiming at identified short, medium and long term solutions relevant for the sustainability of food systems;
- **Development Partners:** development partners play a relevant role in transforming food systems, both in terms of competencies and financial support often lacking.

4. Mozambique's Pathway Towards Food Systems Transformation

Generally, to achieve SDGs by 2030 different priority actions are required in Mozambique. As described below, some of these actions are already in place (at a beginning or intermediate stages) whilst others still require support.

4.1. Activities by 2030

4.1.1. For Pillar 1

- Implementation of support programmes to vulnerable groups: support provision under the “food for work” approach and provision of production kits loans;
- Increased coverage for food programmes: school feeding programmes, first 1,000 days programme (food support for pregnant women and children up to two-years old), programmes for rehabilitation and expansion of water and sanitation networks;
- Intra and intersectoral coordination: establishment and operationalization of coordination committees at different levels.

4.1.2. For Pillar 2

- Support to agricultural value chains development and integration: access to improved inputs, technical assistance for smallholder farmers, establishment of subvention schemes and financing throughout value chains (agriculture, livestock and fishery);
- Effective implementation of and compliance with production and processing quality norms and standards;
- Rehabilitation of priority access roads for agricultural trade, based on sustainable and low-cost technologies and adoption of adequate transport facilities.

4.1.3. For Pillar 3

- Implementation of environmental valuation actions through initiatives such as reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forestry degradation (REDD+);
- Reduction of wood fuel consumption related to household demands through the promotion of household gas availability, in form and price, accessible for communities;
- Mangroves recovery by replantation.

4.2. Timeframe

The timeframe is 10 years from now as summarized in the Figure below, grouped in four major stages. Essentially, the first stage consists of harmonizing the different activities related to on-going programmes with the identified gaps, as well as to prioritize critical and relevant actions to accelerate food systems' desired transformation. In this within this stage that Mozambique will also decide on which coalitions to join. The following stages will consist of definition and implementation of new and priority actions as well as monitoring and improvements (as needed) of on-going interventions.

